



## SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

### The SARS Investigation: The Role of CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine

CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DQ) ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/index.htm)) works with federal agencies, state and local health departments, and travel industry and other organizations to prevent the introduction of communicable diseases into the United States. CDC has eight fully staffed quarantine stations, sometimes known as Public Health Service or PHS, in the United States.

Quarantine inspectors serve as important guardians of health at borders and ports of entry into the United States, routinely responding to illness in arriving passengers and ensuring that the appropriate medical and/or procedural action is taken.

During the ongoing investigation into the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/index.htm)) outbreak, CDC's quarantine officials are playing an important role.

#### Quarantine officials (or their designees) are:

- Providing information to returning air travelers arriving in the United States either directly or indirectly from areas with SARS ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel.htm)). CDC updates information on its website on the travel status of other areas with SARS ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel.htm)) as the situation evolves. This same information is being provided via the major shipping associations and the International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL) to persons traveling on cargo ships and cruise ships;
- Distributing health alert notices ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel.htm)) to air travelers, advising them that they may have been exposed to cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and they should monitor their health for at least 10 days and to contact their physicians if they become ill with a fever accompanied by a cough or difficulty in breathing (including to remind them to tell the health-care provider about the symptoms prior to going to his or her office so that arrangements can be made, if necessary, to prevent transmission to others in the health-care setting);
- Boarding airplanes with travelers reported to be ill to assess whether their symptoms match the case definition ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/casedefinition.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/casedefinition.htm)) of SARS;
- Providing timely updates to government agencies partnering in these activities as well as to travel industry organizations;
- Working with CDC's SARS investigation team and local and state health departments to assist in the investigation of suspected cases of SARS.

For a list of CDC's quarantine stations, visit the DQ Quarantine stations page ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/quarantine\\_stations.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/quarantine_stations.htm)).

For more information, visit the website of the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine ([www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/index.htm)).

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars) or call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (Español), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY)

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